



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Dear Master Plan participant,

This letter is a follow up to the Preferred Alternative document, which you should have received a few days ago. The Preferred Alternative is the final stage in the master planning process prior to creating a new draft Master Plan for the State Forest. The golf course is not one of the alternatives to the NHAL master plan but its outcome would affect lands within the Master Plan boundary.

The Town of Boulder Junction recently approached the Department of Natural Resources with a proposal to develop a municipal golf course on up to 400 acres of public land within the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest.

The removal of public state forest land to facilitate construction of the proposed golf course is a relatively new concept and was not presented by the Department of Natural Resources in previous discussions of management alternatives for the State Forest Master Plan.

The Town Board of Boulder Junction voted to have a feasibility study done for the golf course proposal. The Town has stated they would like to pursue a land use agreement with the DNR for the proposed golf course. The cost of these agreements is usually one dollar. According to state forest law, the only allowable options available would be to sell or trade land. (The property currently supports a forest of mostly jack pine of varying ages with a mixture of white pine, red pine, birch, aspen and some oak.) Both of these options would require changing or reducing the current project boundary of the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest. In addition, the acreage to be traded or sold would have to be declared as no longer needed for conservation purposes. The Department's Natural Resources Board can only make this declaration.

The Department of Natural Resources is doing a legal and scientific review of the issue. Environmental impacts and precedents have not been assessed at this time.

The Department is seeking public input and reaction to the removal of public state forestland from the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest for the proposed golf course development. People interested in forwarding comments about the proposal should contact or send their signed statements to:

Dennis Leith
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Sincerely,

Dennis Leith
NHAL State Forest Superintendent
DL:rl
Enc.

